

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2449

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NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT VISIT

1. DURING AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY FOR SADAT THIS AFTERNOON, BEGIN STOPPED IN DIPLOMATIC RECEIVING LINE TO SAY "I THINK IT WENT WELL; I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. I WILL CALL PRESIDENT CARTER TONIGHT TO REPORT TO HIM." BEGIN THEN SAID HE WANTED TO SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO GIVE ME A FILL-IN, THEN ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS EXTREMELY TIRED AND WOULD HAVE TO REST BEFORE SCHEDULING ANY MEETINGS. (HE DID INDEED LOOK EXHAUSTED, WHICH IS NOT SURPRISING SINCE HE GOT TO BED AFTER 2 A.M. THIS MORNING. MOREOVER, THE NATURAL PHYSICAL LETDOWN AFTER THE EXHILARATION OF THE PAST TWO DAYS WAS SETTING IN.)

2. AFTER SADAT'S PLANE TOOK OFF, DAYAN TOOK ME ASIDE FOR A BRIEF TALK. HE SAID THAT HE HAD SEVERAL TIMES TRIED TO TALK TO SADAT ABOUT THE PROCEDURAL ROADBLOCKS TO GENEVA. EACH TIME, HOWEVER, SADAT HAD SAID THAT HE WAS JUST NOT INTERESTED IN ANY MORE PROCEDURAL DISCUSSIONS;

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THAT HE WAS ONLY INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT SUBSTANCE. DAYAN SAID HE HAD ALSO RAISED QUESTION OF PROCEDURES AND THE U.S.-ISRAELI WORKING PAPER WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BUTROS GHALI BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. BUTROS GHALI SAID THAT AS HE HAD JUST BEEN APPOINTED HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE WORKING PAPER PROBLEM, AND THAT IN VIEW OF SADAT'S FEELINGS ABOUT

FURTHER PROCEDURAL DISCUSSIONS, HE HAD NOT EVEN READ IT (*). DAYAN SAID HE WAS SURE THAT WE WOULD BE GETTING BACK TO THE SUBJECT SOMEHOW IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET ANYWHERE ON IT DURING THE VISIT.

3. AFTER THE PLANE TOOK OFF BEGIN CAME DIRECTLY OVER TO ME IN THE DIPLOMATIC LINE-UP, GAVE ME AN UNUSUALLY LINGERING ABRAZO, AND THANKED ME UNNECESSARILY FOR "ALL OUR HELP". HE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN A SUCCESS AND THAT HE OWED MUCH TO US FOR THAT FACT.

4. MOOD FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EX-MINISTERS FROM PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, ALL OF WHOM WERE AT AIRPORT, WAS ONE OF EXHILARATION, TINGED WITH UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT. ALL AGREED THAT SADAT HAD HANDLED HIMSELF MAGNIFICENTLY THROUGHOUT THE VISIT AND HAD MADE DEEP IMPRESSION ON ISRAELI PEOPLE AS WELL AS ALL WHO CAME DIRECTLY INTO CONTACT WITH HIM. TENDENCY AMONG MOST WAS TO PLAY DOWN IMPORTANCE OF RISING TIDE OF HOSTILITY IN ARAB WORLD AND CONCENTRATE ON FAVORABLE REACTIONS FROM EGYPT, AS WELL AS ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIALOGUE WILL NOW CONTINUE IN DIFFERENT VENUES. SOME ADMITTED THAT THEY WERE NOT SURE WHETHER SADAT COULD CREDIBLY SAY HE HAD TAKEN AWAY ENOUGH TO
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JUSTIFY HIS GAMBLE TO THE ARAB WORLD, BUT WERE ALSO AT AL LOSS TO SAY WHAT THEY THINK BEGIN SHOULD HAVE GIVEN AS A GESTURE OR A CONCESSION AT THIS EARLY STAGE IN WHAT THEY HOPE TO BE A NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

5. EVEN GOLDA MEIR HAD SUCCUMBED TO SADAT'S CHARMS. SHE TOLD ME BEFORE THE AIRPORT CEREMONY THAT SHE TOO WAS CONVINCED ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT HAD CROSSED A GENUINE WATERSHED.

6. PLEASE REPEAT TO CAIRO, AMMAN AND DAMASCUS.
LEWIS

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NNN

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